

NORTH LEAMINGTON COMMUNITY FORUM
Wallsgrove Close and Crown Way Precinct Project
SURVEY SUMMARY - FEBRUARY, 2010



In January 2010 a letterbox and personal call survey was undertaken in Crown Way flats and shops, Wallsgrove Close, Bentley Close and some of Newnham Road to identify what local people wanted to see happen to the Old Drying Areas on Wallsgrove Close (pictured above) and what might be improved or changed within the shopping precinct.

Around 200 questionnaires were posted through doors in Crown Way, around 55 doors were knocked and 150 questionnaires distributed to the Library, Childrens' Centre, Youth Centre, CHAIN and SPAR shop.

Sixty completed questionnaires were returned and around 100 unused. These are a summary of the findings.

There were five initial options or examples suggested for the Old Drying areas to become:-

1. A fenced garden for sole use of tenants of these flats = 11
2. An open garden for everyone to enjoy = 7
3. Additional car parking (especially in view of the new Tesco store) = 14
4. A recycling area = 4
5. A dedicated children's playspace = 19

Most respondents felt one of the five above would be a good use of the space. Some respondents felt that a childrens playspace and fenced garden area could be combined.

People were asked to share any further opinions on the Old Drying Areas site and these are they:-

6. Please do not make it into a car park = 1
7. Remove the current corner to help lorries park = 1
8. Do not build on the site = 1
9. Make a veggie plot / wildlife garden with benches = 1
10. Make it somewhere to relax = 5
11. Make a Cyber Café = 4
12. Make a 5 a side football cage = 2
13. Coffee / Tea hut run by volunteers = 1
14. Make the space into an ice rink = 3
15. Build a KFC = 2
16. Bowling = 1
17. Make a memorial garden = 1
18. Make a pool = 2
19. Make it into garages for residents = 1
20. Build flats/bungalow/homes on the site = 2
21. A nice garden incorporating play equipment = 1
22. Grass it over = 1

The questionnaire asked for two suggestions however most people only offered one.

People were then asked what they might like to see improved or changed in the main shopping precinct and these were their responses:-

23. Do something – not nothing = 3
24. Deal with kids climbing = 1
25. Remove toilets = 1

26. Improve toilets (longer opening, cleaner, better facilities) =7
27. Improve steps (paint lines on edges, repair crumbling brickwork, increase small step width) = 2
28. Make flats gated and secure = 1
29. Security for flats 41 – 49 = 1
30. Install free cash points = 1
31. Repair cameras under balconies = 1
32. Make central reservation on Crown Way into car parking* = 1
33. Stop all parking on double yellow lines* = 1
34. Improve benches = 7
35. Reposition benches to stop intimidation (YP) = 1
36. Better shops including clothes shops = 2
37. Keep the precinct clean and tidy = 8
38. Keep dogs on a lead = 1
39. Fear for the precinct when Tesco comes* = 1
40. More planting and greenery = 4
41. More litter bins = 2
42. Make parking bays time limited parking spaces* = 2
43. Improve everything = 1
44. Improve lighting = 1
45. Cut down trees= 1
46. Clean and brighten flooring = 1
47. Level courts to stop puddles (I think this refers to multi sports surface at Youth Centre) = 2
48. Better courts lights and on longer (I think this also refers to multi sports surface at YC) = 1
49. Install cigarette nubbars = 1
50. Put lights in Mason Avenue Park = 1
51. Do nothing = 12
52. Improve Wallsgrove Close fences and footpaths = 1
53. Move Bus stop by bakers shop = 1

The questionnaire asked if people knew about the North Leamington Community forum and 17 said Yes they did, 39 said no. Twenty eight people would not bring issues to the North Leamington Community Forum however 4 said they would.

Some issues that people might bring to the North Leamington Community Forum included

54. Could the wooden fencing be changed to brick (I don't know where this refers to)
55. Could double yellow lines be extended by the Library, Childrens' Centre and Youth Centre to stop people parking on a busy corner = 1
56. Could we have more visible policing = 2

People were also asked if they had any other comments to make at this time and these are their responses:-

57. Do things for young people in school holidays = 3
58. The shopping precinct and Wallsgrove Close land can be intimidating = 2
59. That these improvements do go ahead = 1
60. There is no where to go when the Youth Centre closes = 1
61. Put Christmas lights into the precinct = 1
62. No comments – Lillington is a great place = 2

Four people added extensive notes to their questionnaires and I felt that it was important to summarise their views

A fenced garden would be difficult to achieve as the ground is concrete and as residents do not take a pride in their surroundings it would soon become derelict. Although one of these respondents felt that this is the only answer as the Old Drying areas belong to these flats anyway and if a wall or fencing was built it could be kept safe and secure.

These 4 respondents felt that a Children's play area was not a good idea. Two thought it very dangerous due to the amount and types of heavy traffic using the close. It was also felt that it could/would be vandalised by young people and used for them to congregate and cause more trouble by shouting/swearing, running around and climbing on roofs.

An open garden could/would be used by young people to smoke /take drugs, play football and generally congregate and make nuisance.

The idea of additional car parking was thought by three of these respondents to be a sensible idea especially when Tesco opens at the top of the road. It was felt that Tesco opening would cause parking displacement especially as Clinic and Dentist workers /users currently park at the Pub Car park and will probably not be allowed to once Tesco opens. One respondent felt that people would simply not drive around the block to park at the rear of the shops if it became extra parking capacity. However for all four respondents there was still the worry that young people would hang around causing disturbance.

A recycling facility was seen by all four of these respondents as not being a good idea – it would only tempt young people to gather and they felt that there are enough re-cycling facilities in the area already.

One respondent felt that building bungalows for older people was a good use of this space and would generate income for WDC. The fences and footpaths on Wallsgrove Close need much attention. One resident felt strongly that the bus stop by the bakery is a continual problem. Cars park and the bus has to stop in mid-road which means passengers cannot alight onto the footpath and cars cannot pass. The stop could/should be moved to a better location. Also this respondent thought that Tesco should offer recycling provision when it opens.

Several other respondents talked about their worries once Tesco opens at the top of Crown Way especially with regard to car parking and these have been marked throughout this summary with an *.

Summary compiled by Linda Price for North Leamington Community Forum on 2nd February 2010